

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04546 130413Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3516
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 4546

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN, NC
SUBJECT: NEW CALEDONIAN COBALT SITUATION

REF: A) STATE 145925, B) CANBERRA A-098 (NOTAL), C) CANBERRA
A-110 (NOTAL)

1. REGIONAL RESOURCES ATTACHE (RRA) VISITED NEW CALEDONIA IN
MARCH 1978 AND FROM INFORMATION GATHERED ON VISIT TO LE
NICKEL-SLN, RRA CAN BE HELPFUL IN RESPONDING TO
REF A. THE LE NICKEL-SLN OPERATION AS REPORTED IN REF B AND
REF C CONTAINS INFORMATION ON THE NICKEL OPERATIONS IN NEW
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CALEDONIA, NOT ONLY LE NICKEL-SLN.

2. CONSUMPTION: NONE

3. STOCKS: NO STOCKPILING POLICY. ORDERS ARE FILLED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH CONTRACTUAL DEMANDS.

4. PRODUCTION: THE DONAIAMBO PLANT PRODUCES FERRO-NICKEL AND NICKEL MATTE. ANNUAL CAPACITY HAS BEEN AROUND 75,000 OF CONTAINED NICKEL. REFURBISHING OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT IS UNDERWAY AND BY 1980 PRODUCTION OF NICKEL CONTAINED IN MATTE AND FERRO-NICKEL COULD BE 90,000 TONNES PER YEAR. THE INDICATIVE ANALYSIS OF SLN FERRO-NICKELS ARE:

	FN1 (PERCENT)	FN3 (PERCENT)	FNC (PERCENT)	FN4 (PERCENT)
NI	24 TO 30	22 TO 28	22 TO 28	22 TO 28
C	0.030	1.20 TO 1.80	1.20 TO 1.80	1.20 TO 1.90
SI	0.090	0.50 TO 2.00	0.50 TO 2.50	1.00 TO 3.00
S	0.030	0.030	0.060	0.230

NICKEL MATTE IS PRODUCED WITH THE FOLLOWING INDICATIVE ANALYSIS: NI-60 PERCENT, FE-25 PERCENT, C-1 TO 1.5 PERCENT, AND S-THE BALANCE. THIS INTERMEDIATE PRODUCT THEN UNDERGOES SECONDARY REFINING IN A 20-TONNE CONVERTER, RESULTING IN INDUSTRIAL GRADE MATTE. THE TOTAL ANNUAL PRODUCTION CORRESPONDS TO 30,000 TONNES OF NICKEL CONTAINED.

5. PRICES: ONLY AVAILABLE PRICE INFORMATION HERE PERTAINS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO CONTAINED NICKEL, WHICH ALSO HAS COBALT AS A CONSTITUENT. WORLD PRICE IS RECEIVED FOR PRODUCT WITH ADJUSTMENTS AS REQUIRED BY VALUE OF FRENCH FRANC IN RELATION TO US DOLLAR. PRICE EX-LE HAVRE INCLUDES COST OF LOADING AND VALUE ADDED TAX. PRICES FOR SALES OUTSIDE THE METROPOLE ARE NEGOTIATED AT A LEVEL TO MEET THE COMPETITION HEAD ON, THEREFORE THESE PRICES VARY ACCORDING TO SUPPLY/DEMAND SITUATION.

6. GOVERNMENT POLICIES: NOT AWARE OF GOF POLICIES RELATED TO NEW CALEDONIAN COBALT.

7. COMPANY ALLOCATION POLICIES: SALES ARE MADE WHEN AND WHERE THEY CAN BE MADE. SQUIRE

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Message Attributes

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